

29/03/22

WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Association Inc.

Listen up! Project – Submission to Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce.

To whom this may concern,

My name is Jane Barrett; I am a Listen up! project worker from WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Association Inc. WWILD supports people who have an intellectual disability and have experienced sexual assault, domestic and family violence, or are at risk of experiencing violence.

I am writing to submit the *And You Think You’re The Expert?* podcast and accompanying resources to the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce. The *And You Think You’re The Expert?* resources were developed as part of the Listen up! project at WWILD, in collaboration with 31 women with intellectual disability, led by a project team including two peer workers. The podcast discusses how services can be more accessible for women with intellectual disability who have experienced violence, such as domestic, family or sexual violence. It is hosted by experts in this field; that is, women with intellectual disability. Each episode, the experts interview a worker how they work with women with intellectual disability who have experienced violence; including a sexual violence counsellor and a police officer. The experts share their wisdom around what workers and services could be doing to work better with this group of women.

This project was initiated because women with intellectual disability are grossly overrepresented as victims of sexual violence, domestic and family violence, and other forms of disability-related violence; women with intellectual disability are often unable to access appropriate and accessible support services; and they are often excluded from conversations about how to change this.

Some of the advice discussed in the resources include:

- Training facilitated by women who have an intellectual disability, that supports services to better understand and work alongside women who have an intellectual disability; including identifying and responding to acts of violence perpetrated against women who have an intellectual disability;

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- Training facilitated by women who have an intellectual disability, that supports police officers to understand experiences of intellectual disability, communicate effectively and identify intellectual disability appropriately;
- Police offering 93a interviews to all women who have an intellectual disability and are reporting sexual violence;
- Accessible information and education for women who have an intellectual disability around relationships, rights and sex education.

The podcast and accompanying resources were launched on Thursday 17th of March 2022. The podcast and resources are available at: <https://andyouthinkyouretheexpert.com.au/>

Thank you for your consideration of these important messages, shared by the experts themselves; women who have an intellectual disability.

Regards,

Jane Barrett  
Listen up! Project Worker  
WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Association Inc.